

The Ballarat Naturalist

March 2014



Eucalypt Identification – February meeting presentation.

John Gregurke gave the February meeting presentation on identifying eucalypts that occur in the Ballarat area.

After initially mentioning eucalypts are included within the myrtaceae family which have the feature that they have oil glands, John went on to the naming background. The name *Eucalyptus* was first used in 1788 by the French botanist Charles Louis L'Héritier de Brutelle in naming a specimen of *Eucalyptus obliqua* collected by Cook. Of about 900 species in Australia and 90 plus in Victoria, John said 20 plus species could be found around Ballarat. This figure is verified in an article written in the 1990s by Roger Thomas which indicated 24 in the Ballarat area. The figure of 900 includes the species we now know as angophora and corymbia.

The value and uses of eucalypts came next, with a long list of obvious uses including oil, fibre for paper, honey production, building and furniture timber, gardens and shelter belts but some less obvious facts were included. There have been estimates that in some circumstances if one third of a farm was converted to timber, its production would not decrease. Eucalypts had been used to 'drain' swampy areas to control malaria including along the Tiber River near Rome-, a fact contributed by John Mildren.

Moving to identification of trees, John stated that, with familiarity it was possible to identify some species whilst travelling at 100kph along the road. This was responded to with some scepticism by many present and later it was learned that with some species even experts may have difficulty. However, generally by taking into account habitat, flowering time, bark, leaves, buds and nuts, an identification usually could be made by the amateur. Taxonomists use internal features such as arrangement of stamens, number of seeds and seed shape but generally this is out of the range of the amateur who wants to make an identification whilst in the bush.

The types of trees based on bark were next with a slide showing the different types of bark; gums, stringy bark, box, peppermint and ironbark. In determining species, buds are important including number in group, shape of bud and shape of cap then the gum nuts with number in group, shape, valves and the disc needing to be observed. Juvenile, mature and sometimes intermediate leaves added to the observations with the comment that collecting and observing the juvenile leaves, buds and nuts could be a challenge in the bush as they were high on trees and collecting from the ground under a tree did not necessarily mean the items were from the tree above.

In identifying angophoras reliance could be put on their mature leaves being opposite whereas on eucalypts they were normally alternate.

The list of eucalypts of the Ballarat area in this newsletter was provided to each member present (see p.5,6). The list included local flowering times mostly observed and recorded by Roger Thomas and local places where specimens could be observed. John went through the list in order showing a slide that included a picture of the tree and where it was located, the leaves and buds; outlining the characteristics of each and making comparisons with similar looking species. For each species a herbarium style sample was circulated, some collected several years ago by Carol Hall but mostly prepared and mounted by John for his talk. Also circulated were jars with nuts to match the sheets. Looking at the pictures and specimens gave a good indication of what might be expected from collected material. It also exemplified what we could all do to improve our knowledge and recall of information.

There were other snippets of interesting information about species such as that *Eucalyptus aromaphloia* (Scent bark and also called the Creswick apple box) was described in 1954 from a type specimen at about the 113 mile post between Buangor and Mt Langi-Ghiran. Gavin Cerini indicated that he had been shown this specimen and that it was likely to still be there. Also, while *Flora Victoria* stated that scent from the bark of these trees was a poor indicator of the species, most present could remember scraping bark and noting the scent.

The effect of grazing on regeneration was highlighted with a comment from John Mildren that at one location regeneration could be observed on the road side but not in grazed paddocks and our speaker saying that on another property even light-grazing prevented

regeneration as observed by the current owner who said stopping the grazing of 20 acres by one horse and one sheep when he bought the place resulted in significant change to the regeneration.

As well as the knowledge shared by John it was interesting to see the collections he had made to help in learning about and understanding the eucalyptus. The talk was presented in easy understandable explanations supported by a clear slide show with good photos and specimens. Thank you John for all your preparation and for sharing your knowledge. I am sure the talk you gave will be one that will be remembered with respect by those who had the privilege to hear it and that your notes and presentation will be a great resource. It is a pity that the planned excursion could not go ahead because of a total fire ban but I am sure that it including later will give us all something to look forward to and offer the challenge of remembering identification for longer.

Peter Dalman

Mistletoes in the Environment – Peter Rogers

*Fon Ryan, President of APS extends an invitation for FNCB members to attend the Australian Plants Society meeting at 7.30pm on Wednesday 12th March 2014 at the Robert Clark Horticultural Centre. The guest speaker will be Peter Rogers who will speak on: **What is a Mistletoe?, their ecology, environmental issues and a little on propagation.** He will also venture into the question: Does Mistletoe kill trees? Peter is son of the late Fred Rogers, after whom APS Victoria has named its biennial Fred Rogers Seminar, inaugurated in 1996.*



Bird Club Special March 2014

Bird Club group orders receive a 30% discount on 'Pizzey & Knight Birds of Australia Digital Edition' for Windows PC
Bird Club Price: \$49.00 ea incl GST

RRP: \$69.95 ea incl GST

Savings: \$20.95

For more information, or to place an order please contact your Bird Club Committee.

Eucalypts of Ballarat area

Prepared for Field Naturalists Club of Ballarat by John Gregurke, February 2014

| <i>Scientific name</i> | <u>Common name</u> | Local flowering time | Local Distribution (2.) |
|--|------------------------------|----------------------|--|
| <i>Eucalyptus aromaphloia</i> | Scentbark | Feb | scattered South of B'rat – Canadian, En-field |
| <i>Eucalyptus baxteri</i> | Brown Stringybark | Nov-Mar | Bungaree - Spargo Creek |
| <i>Eucalyptus brookeriana</i> | Brooker's Gum | summer-autumn, | Burrumbeet, Clunes |
| <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> | River Red Gum | Dec-Jan | Wombat |
| <i>Eucalyptus cypellocarpa</i> | Mountain Grey Gum | autumn-winter | widespread |
| <i>Eucalyptus dives</i> | Broad-leaved Peppermint | Sept-Nov | planted |
| <i>Eucalyptus globulus ssp globulus</i> | Southern Blue Gum | winter-spring | Lerderg |
| <i>Eucalyptus globulus ssp psuedoglobulus</i> | Gippsland Blue Gum | spring-summer | Mt Warrenheip |
| <i>Eucalyptus globulus ssp bicostata</i> | Victorian Blue Gum, Eurabbie | spring-summer | Mt Beckworth, Clunes |
| <i>Eucalyptus goniocalyx</i> | Long-leaved Box, Bundy | March-April | Clunes |
| <i>Eucalyptus leucoxylon subsp. pruinosa</i> | Yellow Gum | Aug-Nov | Dereel, Clunes |
| <i>Eucalyptus macrorhyncha</i> | Red Stringybark | summer | Clunes, Long Point |
| <i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i> | Yellow Box | Oct-Jan | Clunes |
| <i>Eucalyptus microcarpa</i> | Grey Box | Feb | Mt Beckworth |
| <i>Eucalyptus nortonii</i> | Glaucous Long-leaved Box | autumn-winter | widespread |
| <i>Eucalyptus obliqua</i> | Messmate | Jan-Mar | widespread in damp country |
| <i>Eucalyptus ovata</i> | Swamp Gum | July-Sept | scattered in Basalt areas |
| <i>Eucalyptus pauciflora subsp. pauciflora</i> | Snow Gum | Nov-Dec | Clunes, Lexton |
| <i>Eucalyptus polyanthemus</i> | Red Box | Nov | Creswick, Enfield |
| <i>Eucalyptus radiata subsp. radiata</i> | Narrow-leaved Peppermint | Oct-Jan | |

| | | | |
|--|------------------------|---------|-------------------------|
| <i>Eucalyptus rubida</i> | Candlebark | Nov-Dec | Long Point, Enfield |
| <i>Eucalyptus tricarpa</i> | Red Ironbark | Apr-May | Clunes Mt Erip |
| <i>Eucalyptus viminalis ssp viminalis</i> | Manna Gum | Feb-Mar | widespread |
| <i>Eucalyptus viminalis subsp. cygnetensis</i> | Rough-barked Manna Gum | Feb-Mar | scattered |
| <i>Eucalyptus yarraensis</i> | Yarra Gum | Dec-Feb | scattered in damp areas |

1. Local flowering times are based on observations by Roger Thomas.
2. Examples of where species can be found.

Exploring the Fungi Kingdom Workshops

Fungi are a fascinating group of organisms and our local forests exhibit some of the richest fungal diversity in the country. The remarkable variety of species, colours and forms has inspired interest in their biology, ecology and edibility worldwide. The workshop includes an illustrated seminar providing an introduction to the identification, natural and cultural history of fungi. In the afternoon there will be a foray into a variety of local forests to search for species of interest. There will also be a display of local specimens and resources, as well as opportunity to partake in active discussion. Dates & Locations of some of the Workshop :-

Saturday 10 May- Creswick, *Black Diamonds & Witches' Rings -Foray into Curious Kingdom of Fungi*

Sunday 11 May - Haddon, *Fungi: An Introduction to a Curious Kingdom*

Saturday 2nd May- Daylesford, Bookings

Sunday 3rd May -Daylesford, Bookings:

Sunday 17th May- Creswick, Bookings: 5

Cost: \$60 Time: 11.00am – 4.45pm Further Info:

Excerpts for Club Meeting Minutes 7 Feb., 2014

Opening and Apologies

Attendance: The President welcomed 20 members & friends.

Apologies: P Norquay, E Swan, Dulcie Brooke, Jane Marriott, Peter Laird, Denis & Elizabeth Thurgood, Andy Arnold, Jeanette Mitchell, Genny Binns, Bill Murphy, Jacki Metcalf, Helen Young-Harvey.

Correspondence. SEANA Minutes – includes change of date for Portland SEANA in September to Sept 26 - 29 Business Arising : Peter Dalman agreed to revisit the Charities paperwork.

Reports

John Gregurke reported that he had heard from Jeff Rootes that a Community Forum: “*Canadian Forest should be a Multi Use Forest Park*” will be held early in April - details will be emailed to FNCB members soon. John pointed out to Jeff that FNCB would not speak, but does support the concept of a Multi Use Forest Park. (see p. 6).

General Business

Excursion – John Gregurke - Eucalypts around Ballarat: Total Fire Ban declared so will be cancelled, and perhaps held later in the year.

In May there will be no meeting due to the clash with SEANA Marysville. However Gavin Cerini mentioned a Brolga Survey to be held the previous weekend on April 26-27. Details later newsletter.

Syllabus progress well in hand. Advance notice: Carol Hall is stepping down after 15 yrs on committee, new Secretary will be needed.

AGM theme for Members’ Images is *Seascapes* – interpret broadly as topics of marine interest. Bring up to 10 images on a USB stick.

Show & Tell/Reports.

Christmas Day Chris Baulch saw an Indian Myna in Peppertree Lane, Guildford along the Daylesford/Castlemaine Rd.

Feb. Les Hanrahan had 5 Pelicans on his dam in Bungaree. Mike Sorrell at Lake Wendouree noted that Water Rats were well established, breeding and extending their range. Emily Noble had a pair of Australian White Ibis foraging on the wetland at her Scarsdale block where there were also Spotted Pardalotes, Varied Sittellas, Little Pied Cormorant, White-throated Tree-creepers, a pair of Sacred Kingfishers and 30 Wood Ducks.

Carol Hall invited members to browse her photobook on a trip to NZ sub-antarctic islands and Macquarie Island.

March Excursion notice

The March excursion has been changed to *Birdwatching along the Yarrowee in the vicinity of Ditchfield Lane*.

Peter Dalman has offered to lead it.

Friends of Canadian Corridor Public Forum

“The Canadian Forest should become Ballarat’s regional multi-use Forest Parklands”

The forum is planned to be held 7- 9pm on Thurs. 13 Mar. 2014 at the Earth Ed Centre, Olympic Ave., Mt Clear.

The Forum will include presentations:

Sophie Bickford: Convenor Central Victorian Alliance:

The Canadian Forest: Key stone in Great Eastern Wildlife Corridor

Sophie will talk about the corridor - which runs from the Grampians to Cairns - and outline where the Canadian Forest sits in its ecological context.

Linda Zibell: Co Convenor Friends of the Canadian Corridor:

“The social and environmental case for a multi-use Forest Park”.

Linda will describe the current situation and explore broader advantages and future benefits of a multi-use park.

The Eureka Orienteers and the Ballarat and Sebastopol Cycling Club:

“The recreational and economic case for a multi-use Forest Park”.

Current orienteering and cycling use of the forest and other recreational and economic opportunities that could occur as a result of an enhanced multi -use forest park

At conclusion of the forum, those in attendance may determine to make a request to the Victorian Government to :

- * undertake a Victorian Environmental Assessment Council assessment of Canadian Forest. The last report was undertaken in 1983 when the existing forest reserve and plantation use was recommended. Now that the plantation areas have returned to Crown land status there is a solid case for a new review to be undertaken.
- * consider conserving the existing Canadian Forest as a regional multi-use forest reserve. In the event of the ex-plantation land being identified by VEAC as forest reserve (original classification) then that land could be added to the multi-use Forest Park. A management plan, including park amenities would need to be implemented.

CALENDAR 2014

March

- Fri 7* *AGM Members' images - Seascapes*
Sun 9 *Ballarat district - Peter Dalman*
Mar 13 *7-9pm FOCC Public Forum (See p 6)*
Tues 27 *Committee meeting at J Gregurke's*

April

- Fri 4* *Wonders! Wildflowers of WA Wheatbelt- Elizabeth*
 Thurgood, club member
Sun 6 *Woody Yallock Catchment Group - Alice Knight*
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Committee

President Peter Dalman
Vice –President..... Fran Hanrahan
Secretary Carol Hall
Treasurer Les Hanrahan

Elspeth Swan
Claire Dalman
John Gregurke

John Mildren
Val Hocking

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Meetings are held at the Primary Industries Training Centre, cnr Gillies and Gregory Sts, on the first Friday of the month at 7.30pm..

Excursions: Leave from the carpark at the Primary Industries Training Centre, cnr Gillies and Gregory Sts. at 9.30 am, unless otherwise advised.

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